



P&O UK unveils summer 2024

P&O Cruises UK has launched its northern summer 2024 program with a range of short breaks to Ibiza, and Mykonos, and Amsterdam.

The season will feature extended time in many destinations to maximise P&O'S new program of tailored shore excursions.

The cruise line's new ship *Arvia*, which is joining the fleet in Dec, will offer two different 14-night western Mediterranean itineraries, each with six ports of call.

Iona will continue to spend the summer season in the Norwegian fjords for seven night itineraries.

Kimberley season begins



CORAL Expeditions has kicked off its Kimberley season, with two of the cruise line's ships embarking this week on the brand's 27th year in the region.

The cruise line's *Coral Adventurer* departed Fremantle for Broome on a 12-night exploration of the Houtman Abrolhos and the Coral Coast, while *Coral Geographer* departed Broome on a 10-night Kimberley cruise.

The pair will be joined by *Coral Discoverer* mid next month.

This year, there are 50 planned expeditions in the Kimberley and Western Australia, with Coral to host more than 3,000 guests between Mar and Oct - the largest Kimberley season in the history of the cruise line.

Group General Manager Mark Fifield was on hand in both Fremantle and Broome to see off both departures.

"Our loyal guests and crew have been patiently awaiting this day," he enthused.

"Some of our Expedition Leaders have been guiding guests in the Kimberley for 20 years, yet they say that every voyage uncovers something new.

"That is why we love this truly Australian adventure so much... the Kimberley holds a special place in our heart."

Celebrating the opening of the

season, Coral will be turning the spotlight on the Kimberley throughout next month with a 'Live from the Kimberley' series of images, videos, stories and live webinars featuring the cruise line's long-standing Expedition Leaders.

HLO high on cruise

DESPITE the limited number of available cruise products, Helloworld has seen strong bookings for future cruise travel, the company said.

In his presentation to the Ord Minnett Leisure, Tourism & Gaming Conference, Chief Executive Officer & Managing Director Andrew Burnes said he believes Helloworld is "well-placed" to capitalise on apparent cruise demand as the industry recommences in Australia.

In the 2019 fiscal year, total cruise sales throughout Helloworld's wholesale businesses and retail network in Australia were over \$1 billion.

Helloworld expects the reopening of cruise to have a material difference to its TTV in the 2023 fiscal year and beyond, for when travel advisors hold significant forward bookings.

Cruise Weekly today

Cruise Weekly today features two pages of all the latest cruise industry news.

Cunard chef lineup

CUNARD Line has revealed its line-up of chefs to join Matt Moran aboard its Great Australian Culinary Voyage (*CW* 25 Feb).

The highly sought-after, five-night cruise, which sets sail from Sydney on 28 Jan, will feature Mark Olive, Darren Purchase, Terry Durack, Jill Duplex, and Huon Hooke.

Both on board and on shore, Australia's culinary story will come to life for *Queen Elizabeth's* guests, as they are treated to an itinerary of food and wine experiences including bespoke dinners, exclusive menus, talks, interviews, cooking masterclasses, wine tastings, and curated onshore excursions.

The Great Australian Culinary Voyage will be the first of its kind for Cunard, celebrating all aspects of Australia's unique food and wine landscape, as guests sail to Melbourne and Burnie, before returning back to Sydney.

"We are delighted to finally reveal the rest of our incredible talent for what is set to be one of Cunard's most memorable cruises to date in Australia," said Commercial Director Katrina McAlpine.

"We've hand-picked every one of them, ensuring there's an amazing experience to suit all guest tastes quite literally.

"I'm so excited with what we are offering for the onboard and onshore experiences for this voyage which will be a true homage to Australian produce, indigenous food culture and the creative people that make it so fantastic."

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RSSC hanging out for more immersion

REGENT Seven Seas Cruises (RSSC) has unveiled two new shorex concepts to enhance its destination experiences.

The 'Behind the Design' and 'Eco-Connect' tours invite travellers to explore destinations and landmarks from unique and original perspectives.

For the initial launch of the Behind the Design tours, there are 10 exclusive to RSSC's Europe summer season this year, with further international destinations expected to be announced later in 2022.

Behind the Design tour highlights include Copenhagen's Royal Library & Blue Planet, which sees travellers browse two radical, modernistic buildings with an architectural historian that will reveal little known facts about their extraordinary designs.

There is also an Oslo tour, Equinor & Munchmuseet, in which travellers discover how two extraordinarily modern buildings have transformed the city's skyline and pushed the boundaries of design.

An architectural historian guide will elaborate on the



buildings' advanced technologies and present a rare insider's perspective of their construction.


Meanwhile, there will be more than 150 Eco-Connect tours to choose from around the world, allowing guests to engage with local groups, and businesses learn about how they are working to conserve and sustain their surrounding environment.

Highlights include 'A Sloth Paradise - Give Back to Nature', in Costa Rica, where cruisers visit a sanctuary for sloths (pictured)

that have been orphaned, injured, or have lost their habitat due to deforestation.

Guests will gain a close-up perspective of the animals as they are rehabilitated in hopes of returning them to the wild.

Travellers can also join the Bordeaux Wines & Sustainability tour in France, where guests will discover how converting to biodynamic and organic farming has further elevated the quality of the esteemed wines at Chateau de La Dauphine.



PORThOLE

A MESSAGE in a bottle tossed from a fishing boat in 1995 has been found in France.

The bottle, which came ashore in Brittany, came from a man working as the engineer aboard a fishing boat from Massachusetts named *Hannah Boden*.

The man described the boat he was on, listed her crew, her coordinates, and asked whoever found it to respond back to him with the date and location where the bottle was recovered.

He also left his address at the bottom of the message, and placed a dollar bill inside.

The letter was dated 20 Apr 1995, and was released near Puerto Rico.

CBS Boston spoke with *Hannah Boden's* Captain at the time, who said they had lost track of the bottle-releaser.

They also mentioned dollar bills are usually placed inside such time capsules so its finder will not think it's trash.

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